

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10158

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EG

SUBJECT: CIEC: EGYPTIAN COMMENTS ON CONFERENCE RESULTS

1. SUMMARY. EGYPTIAN PRESS REACTION TO CIEC CONFERENCE HAS NOT BEEN EXTENSIVE, BUT PREDICTABLY REFLECTS G-19 ATTITUDES ON ISSUES. GOE OFFICIALS CHARACTERIZE CIEC EFFORTS AS "PRIASEWORTHY" WHILE EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT ON DEBT RELIEF, INDUSTRIALIZATION AND INVESTMENT GUARANTEE QUESTIONS.

2. ASIDE FROM REPORTIAL ACCOUNTS OF CONFERENCE AS CIEC CAME TO END, CAIRO PRESS COMMENT WAS LIMITED LARGELY TO EDITORIALS IN DAILIES AKHBAR AND AHRAH, PLUS BYLINED ARTICLE IN WEEKLY AKHER SA'A. PRESTIGIOUS AHRAH, WHICH IS WIDELY READ AMONG OPINION-MAKERS IN ARAB WORLD, COMMENTED JUNE 2 THAT LDCS HAVE "WARNED" DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AGAINST CONTINUING TO IGNORE PROBLEMS FACING POORER NATIONS. IF DCS AND CIEC HAVE FINALLY REALIZED POTENTIAL FOR DIFFICULTIES IN GLOBAL INEQUALITY OF WEALTH DURING THIS MOST RECENT OF NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCES, CONTINUES AHRAH, DCS STILL MUST SPEED UP SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF LDCS TO ENSURE WORLD PEACE AND STABILITY. MASS-CIRCULATION AKHBAR EDITORIALIZED JUNE 1 IN SIMILAR VEIN, SAYING CONFERENCE COULD BE TURNING
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POINT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IF MAJOR STATES PARTICIPATING HEED "FAIR DEMANDS" OF DCS. AKHBAR CITED DEBT RELIEF, PRICE INDEXATION FOR RAW MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AS KEY ISSUES HINDERING NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

3. JUNE 15 ISSUE OF AKHER SA'A, NEWS AND PICTURE MAGAZINE

READ WIDELY IN ARAB-LANGUAGE COUNTRIES, CARRIES ARTICLE BY PARIS-BASED EGYPTIAN WRITER DORIA AOUNI WITH TITLE "THE TRAP THE WEST LAID FOR THE THIRD WORLD." AUTHOR NOTES DCS OFFERED ASSISTANCE WHICH IS WELCOME BUT ESSENTIALLY PALLIATIVE IN NATURE AND NOT SOLUTION OF DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. CONFERENCE "FOUNDERED" NONETHELESS ON QUESTION OF OIL, ACCORDING AUTHOR; EXPECTATIONS WERE RAISED AMONG LDCS DURING CONFERENCE, BUT THIRD WORLD SOON CAME TO REALIZE ENERGY ISSUE FOR WEST CENTERED ON DESIRE TO SET PETROLEUM PRICES, DETERMINE PRODUCTION AND THUS ASSURE SUPPLIES. BY AVOIDING AGREEMENT ON ENERGY AT CONFERENCE, THIRD WORLD ESCAPED WESTERN "TRAP".

4. VIEW OF CONFERENCE RESULTS, AT GOE OFFICIAL LEVEL WAS, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, LESS NEGATIVE. MFA COUNSELOR ZAHRAH WHO PARTICIPATED IN ENTIRE CONFERENCE AS MEMBER GOE DELEGATION, HAS TOLD EMBOFFS GOE SEES CIEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS "PRIASEWORTHY," GIVEN NEGOTIATING LIMITS BUILT INTO CONFERENCE BY PURSUIT OF THEIR INTERESTS BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE SAID CHIEF DISAPPOINTMENTS FOR EGYPT ARE LACK OF AGREEMENT ON GENERALIZED DEBT RELIEF AND FAILURE TO RESOLVE ISSUE RELATED TO STRUCTURAL CHANGES INHERENT IN DCS' INDUSTRIALIZATION EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE AND ACCESS TO DEVELOPED MARKETS. ZAHRAH COMMENTED ALSO ON GOE DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PROGRESS ON PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT QUESTION, NOTING THAT EGYPT, AND INDEED MOST OF THIRD WORLD OUTSIDE LATIN AMERICA, AGREED WITH US POSITION ON EXPROPRIATION. MFA OFFICIAL SINGLED OUT MEXICO AS CHIEF MOBILIZER OF OPPOSITION TO SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT

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ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT, WITH BRAZIL AND, LATTERLY, ALGERIA FOLLOWING LEAD. ONE AREA OF CONFERENCE RESULTS WITH WHICH EGYPTIAN DELEGATION ON OTHER HAND IS PARTICULARLY PLEASED IS STATEMENT ON MODALITIES FOR INCREASE OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, LANGUAGE OF WHICH GOE DELEGATION CLAIMS SOME CREDIT FOR DRAFTING. ZAHRAH EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION WITH CORDIALITY AND UTILITY OF CONTACTS WITH US DELEGATION.

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